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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Zerbst Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

18 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 INCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Zerbst airfield at 7 p.m. on 12 August 1953  
 21 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s there. No air activity was being conducted. On 9 September, MiG-15s were observed aloft although there was rainy weather and poor ground visibility of less than 1 km. Truck [redacted] with driver wearing black-bordered blue epaulets, moved to the field.

2. Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 18 September, no air activity was observed. There was a closed ceiling at an altitude of about 1,200 meters. Trucks [redacted] all with drivers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets, were observed entering and leaving the field.

3. Between 29 September and 16 October, swept-back jet fighters and sometimes conventional aircraft practiced flying almost every day. No night flights were made. Between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on 29 September, four formations of single-engine aircraft crossed over the field, but did not land there.

4. During the second half of September, two units, for which purchases were made, were stationed at the field. One unit was under the command of Major Bondorenko (fmu) (phonetic spelling) and the other one under Major Ropo (fmu) (phonetic spelling). Unit Bondorenko probably was a ground unit, as it would make purchases for that many personnel. Unit Ropo [redacted] has been observed, just recently replaced a unit under the command of Major Shafir (fmu) (phonetic spelling). Before leaving the field, Major Shafir had settled all bills.

On [redacted] 25X1 the same day when Shafir paid all bills, a portion of the personnel left Zerbst airfield. Purchases were further made by Unit Zelenov (phonetic spelling). Major Zelenov was in charge of a Soviet warehouse on Dobritzer Strasse. The personnel employed there wore red-bordered black epaulets.<sup>2</sup>

5. Trucks observed entering and leaving the field included [redacted] of Unit Bondorenko, [redacted] all with drivers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets, 25X1

6. The high radio masts formerly located near the komendatura were not observed on 3 October. Three wooden sheds and two tents were being built near the radar station. Next to the tents were mounds, probably dug-outs. Jeep [redacted] with driver [redacted] wearing black-bordered blue epaulets passed through the entrance of the field.<sup>3</sup>

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[redacted] around 5 October, at about 6 p.m., a jet fighter [redacted] crashed about 200 meters north of the Belzig-Wiesen-  
burg railroad line, about 700 meters east of Boerne. About two hours after the accident, a sedan carrying Soviet Air Force officers arrived at the scene. A German who had observed the accident was taken in a sedan to an airfield where he was interrogated and repeatedly urged to admit that the jet fighter had been shot down. The interrogating Soviet stated that the aircraft was shot down in the air corridor and at a time when a non-Soviet aircraft was also in the corridor. [redacted] observed small metal pieces of the crashed aircraft at the place of accident.

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8. At about 9:30 a.m. on 13 October, there was air activity by swept-back jet fighters, [redacted] Formations of MiG-15 or U-Mig-15s were repeatedly observed taking off.

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9. [redacted] motor vehicles were observed on the road between the airfield and Zerbst.

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All drivers wore black-bordered blue epaulets.<sup>1</sup>

1. [redacted] Comment. Zerbst airfield is occupied by a fighter division headquarters and a fighter regiment.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Major Bondarenko is believed to be the commanding officer at [redacted] Zerbst airfield. [redacted] Unit Shafir probably belongs to the fighter regiment which transferred from Zerbst to Jueterbog Altes Lager at the beginning of August 1953.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The removal of the high radio masts [redacted] is probably connected with the transfer of the fighter regiment to Jueterbog Altes Lager airfield. [redacted] The radar station is located in the northwestern section of the field. At present, a Dumbo-type radar set is believed to be located there.

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4. [redacted] Comment. This is a typical Soviet distortion of facts.

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